



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

Applied Behavior Analysis

**ABA 4306 ABA Applications for Behavior Change**

**A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT**

This course builds on ABA3301 Introduction to ABA to teach elements of behavior change. Students learn how to use reinforcement in conjunction with fading and shaping to increase desired behavior. Students also learn about various differential reinforcement procedures. Self-management strategies, behavioral contracts, and group contingencies are also introduced. A focus will be placed on reinforcement strategies while learning the disadvantages and risks of using aversive procedures.

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon Completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define reinforcement.
2. Distinguish between positive and negative reinforcement and punishment.
3. Describe various differential reinforcement procedures.
4. Describe self-management strategies.
5. Describe the disadvantages and risks of aversive procedures.

**C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Positive and Negative Reinforcement  
Schedules of Reinforcement  
Fading, & Differential Reinforcement  
Shaping & Chaining  
Extinction  
Teaching Verbal Behavior  
Token Economies, Group Contingencies, Contingency Contracting  
Generalization, Maintenance, & Self-Management

**D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Students will study course content provided through selected texts and Blackboard postings. These resources include:

- Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). *Applied Behavior Analysis* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Pearson Education Limited.
- Fisher, W. W., Piazza, C. C., & Roane, H. (2021). *Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Guildford Press.